

was of the Compass of a Mans hat about the brims. I then caused a Bucket-full of Water to be poured on the fire, by which it was presently quenched, as well as my companions laughter was stopped, who then began to think, the Water did not burn.

I did not perceive the Flame to be discolour'd, like that of sulphureous Bodies, nor to have any manifest *scent* with it. The Fumes, when they broke out of the Earth, and prest against my hand, were not, to my best remembrance, at all hot.

Account of Athanasii Kircheri CHINA ILLUSTRATA.

The *Author* by publishing this *Volume*, discharges the Promise, he had made some years ago, that he would do so. He acknowledges himself much obliged to *Martinius*, and his *Atlas Sinicus*; as also to *Michael Boim*, a *Polonian*; *Philippo Marino*, a Jesuit of *Genoa*; and two other of the same Society, viz. *Henry Roth* of *Ausburg*, and *John Gruber*, an *Austrian*; whereof the latter went A. 1656. over Land from *Rome*, through *Anatolia*, *Armenia*, *Persia*, *Ormuz*, *Cambaja*, and *India*, to *Macao*, the famous Port of *China*, and thence to *Pekin*, the Court of that Empire; whence two years after, he came back to *Rome*, accompanied for a part of the way, by the Jesuit *Albert Dorville*; traversing by Land in a manner the whole breadth of *China*, and a great part of the confining *Tartary*, and so further, through the *Mogols* Dominions, to *Agra*, where the said *Dorville* dying, the above-mentioned *Henry Roth* supplied his place in accomplishing this Voyage.

The Book it self, a large *Folio*, is divided into 6. Parts.

The *three* first, and the *last*, being besides the design of these Tracts, we shall but glance at, taking only notice; *First*, That they pretend to perswade the Reader, that *Christianity* was spread over all *Asia* by *St. Thomas* the Apostle, and his Successors; and hath been there continued, though not without great *Eclipses*, to these very times. And here the *Chino-Chaldæan Monument*, said to have been erected several hundred years since in *China*, and found out A. 1625. is with great labour asserted and interpreted. *Next*, That the Rise of the Idolatry, in those remote parts, and their different Ceremonies in Worship, is confronted with those Ancient ones of *Egypt*. *Lastly*, that a large Account is given of the *Chinese* Letters, their Figure, Power, &c.

But we hasten to the *Fourth* Book, as belonging to our Sphere.
That

That undertakes to describe the *Curiosities* and *Productions* of *Nature* and *Art*, in *China*. Here, the Author having premised something of the advantageous Scituation of *China*, and its *Political* Government; Calculated also both the Number of its Inhabitants, (which according to him, amount to 200 Millions of Men, besides Women, Children, Officers, and Eunuchs;) and the *Annual* Revenue of the Emperour (which he makes to be 150 Millions of Gold-Crowns;) he relateth many considerable productions and works of Nature in that Country; As

1. *Mountains* very odd for shape, burning, and raising of Tempests.

2. *Iles*, to the number of 99. all turned into one, under the same extent of space they had, when they were divided by water.

3. *Lakes*, some changing Copper into Iron, and causing storms, when any thing is cast into them; and others, sprung up by Earth-quakes.

4. *Rivers*, whereof one is said to be of a *Blew* colour in Autumn, and for the rest of the year *Limpid*: Another, to be cold at the top, and very hot beneath.

5. *Fiery Wells*, serving to boyl meat over: Perhaps of the same Nature with that here in *England*, we described above.

6. *Plants*, as 1. some *Roses*, changing their Colour twice a day: Whence the *Author* takes occasion to speak of that Plant, which grows at *Rome*, in the Garden of one Signior *Corvino*, call'd *Viola Nocturna*, changing its colour sensibly, according to the degrees of the rising and declining of the Sun; destitute of all smell in the day-time, but having a very fragrant one in the night. 2. A *Farinaceous* or *Mealy Tree*, serving to make Bread of it. 3. *Leaves* of certain Trees, standing on the side of a Lake, which falling into the water, become like black *Birds*: which he ascribeth to the Seminal parts of some Eggs, broken on those Trees, fill'd with Birds nests. 4. *The*, and its wholesomeness, as to the suppressing of Vapours, and preventing the Stone. 5. A kind of *Wicker-Tree*, which, as if it were a Rope twisted by Nature, about an inch thick, creeps along upon the Earth, sometimes the length of 120 paces, much embarrassing the way; but serving for Cables to Ships, Seats, Hurdles, Beds, Matts; enduring no Vermin; and being cool and refreshing in hot Seasons. 6. The *Calamba-Wood*; that it is esteem'd by some to be a kind of *Lentiscum*

tiscum, by others, a sort of *Terebinth*, but of a nobler rank, by vertue of that Climat: which makes the Author suggest, that care should be taken to have it brought into *Europe*, and carefully cultivated there. 7. *Rhubarb*; of which he observes, that, because the vertue of its Roots, if they be exposed to dry hastily, soon evaporats; therefore the skilfull, lay them upon a Table within doors, and turn them several times a day, to incorporate and fix the Juyce the better, and then string them and expose them to the Wind, in a shade, altogether free from the Sunbeams. 8. *Pine Trees*; of which he saith some are so big, that eight Men can hardly Fathom them. 9. *Canes*, so big, that they can make as many Barrels of them, as they have internodes or Joynts. 10. Trees, sweating a *Gum*, call'd *Cie*, like the droppings of *Turpentine*; which Gum, as long as tis not dried, emits a very unwholsome and dangerous steam. To passe by the *Polonie* Tree, producing fruit without any blossoms, immediately out of its Trunk, as big as one man can well carry; and that kind of *Fig-Tree*, that bears Leaves as big as to wrap up a man in, &c.

7. *Animals*, Here he discourseth of the *Musk-Deer*, and the severall Compositions of *Musk*: the *Sea-Horse*, and *Wild Men*: Offome *Birds*, no where seen but in *China* (as he thinks) and among them a *Wool-bearing Hen*: Of *Fishes*, in Summer flying out of the Sea, seeking their food, like *Birds*, and in Autumn returning to the Sea: particularly of a Fish of a very exquisite taste, called *Hoancio-yu*, or the *Croceous Fish*: Further, of *Sea-Cows*, going often ashore, and fighting with the *Land-Cows*: Of *Bats*, of a vast bigness, eaten by the *Chinese* as a delicious meat: Of the *Serpent*, that breeds the *Antidotal stone*; whereof he relates many experiments, to verifie the relations of its vertue: Which may invite the *Curator* of the *Royal Society*, to make the like tryal, there being such a stone in their *Repository*, sent them from the *East Indies*. Again, of *Silk Worms*, spinning *twice* a year, and yielding a double *Crop*.

8. *Fossils*, where occurs the Relation, 1. Of an odd *Specular stone*, representing the figure of the Moon in all her Appearances, when exposed to Her. 2. Of an *Earth* called *Quei*, very Cosmetick, and absterfive of all blemishes of the face. 3. A *Mineral cerusse*, blended of Lead and Antimony. 4. Of *Asbestus*, that can be drawn and spun; the way of which he affirms to have described L. 12. *Mundi sui subterranei*. 5. The *Matter that makes Porcelain*. which he affirms to be nothing else but a transparent Sand, which

which they soak in water, and then reduce to a Masse or Dough, and so bake it. Not a word of the way of giving it the colour, which, it seems, they keep as a great secret. They have *Gold* and *Silver Mines*, but dig them not, pretending the danger and trouble in the work, and contenting themselves with the Filings and Dust of Gold, which they gather out of the Mud and Sand of Rivers and Fountains.

The *Fifth* Book contains an account of their Works of *Architecture*, and other ingenious Mechanick Arts. Where he speaks, 1. Of their stupendious *Bridges*, one of 360 Perches long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ Perch broad, without any Arch, standing upon 300 Pillars, with acute Angles on both opposite sides, all the stones being of an equal size and shape. Another, built from Mountain to Mountain by one only Arch, 400 cubits long, 500 cubits high (whence tis called *Pons volans*) from the surface of the *Saffrany* River, running under it. This is represented, for the satisfaction of the Curious, by *Figure I*.

Fig. I.

2. *Vast Towns*, but whose Houses are generally but one Story high, and good reason therefore, the Towns should be very big. They are, for the most part, built of Timber.

3. *Turrets* very artificiall, whereof one is all of *Porcellan*.

4. The *China Wall*, 300 German Leagues long; 30 Cubits high, 12 (in some places 15) Cubits broad, so that 12 Horses can very conveniently go in front on it; built 215 years before *Christ*, by the Emperour *Pius*, a brave and most Warlike Prince, and dispatcht in the space of five years; commonly it is defended by a Million of men. A Pattern of this also was thought fit to exhibit here, by *Figure II*.

Fig. II.

5. The *Channel*, that passeth from one extream of *China* to the other, having some 24 *Sluces*, to retain water, when tis necessary; a work of incredible industry and extraordinary advantage.

6. *Vast Bells*, one whereof, at *Pekin*, weighs 120000 pounds; whereas that of *Erfurd* in *Germany*, hitherto esteemed to be one of the biggest in the World, weighs but 25400. pounds.

As for their ingenious Inventions, this Author mentions chiefly,

1. Their *Vernice*, of which he sets down some *Receipts* both for the *Red* and *Black*, together with the way of their Use and Application, as he received them both from an *Augustinian* Fryar; affirming, that it differs not at all from that of *China*.

2. Their way of *Printing*, invented long before that in *Europe*, giving a large description of the same.

3. Gun-

3. *Gunpowder*, which he also saith, they had before the *Europeans*.

4. *Bell-founding*.

These are the principal Subjects treated of in this Book. We passe by severall Stories, which seem much to require confirmation. *E. g.* That of *Sugar-Canes*, eaten by an Elephant, and taking root in his stomach; that of Boys eating Serpents with as much greediness, as others eat Eels, or any good meat, &c.

Among the *Cutts* of this Volume, there is a *Map* of *Asia*, not un-instructive; delineating the way, the two *Jesuits* took in their Land-voyage from *Pekin* to *Goa*; as also that, which the *Muscovian* Ambassadors, not many years since, took in travelling from their Countrey, through the vast Tract of the Northern *Tartary*, to *China*, arriving on the North side of the *China Wall* at *Pekin*: *Item*, The Land-passage, heretofore made by *B. Goes* (described by *Rigaultius*) from *Persia*, by *Labor* in the *Mogols* Empire, through the Kingdoms of *Cabul*, *Zancut*, &c. to *Cataja*, or (which is all one to this *Author*, as it is to several others) the Province of *Pekin* in *China*. *Item*, The passage of *Paulus Venetus* over Land, out of *Europe* into the same *China*: and lastly, That pretended one of *St. Thomas*, out of *Palestina*, through *Syria*, *Mesopotamia*, *Persia*, the *Mogols* Empire, the *Pen-insul* between the Bays of *Cambaya* and *Bengala*, to *Maliapur*, on the Coast of *Coromandel*, where the Name of the *Christians* of *St. Thomas* is still in request.

L O N D O N,

Printed by *T. R.* for *John Martyn*, Printer to the *Royall Society*, and are to be sold at the *Bell* a little without *Temple-Barr*, 1667.

Fig I
A Bridge in China



Fig. II.
China-Wall.

